

DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

SPOT REPORT

SUBJECT: Request from Department of Justice to review Operational Files on Otto Von Bolschwing DATE: 12 March 1979

1. This is to inform you that on 1 March 1979 the General Counsel received a request from the Department of Justice to review certain operational files on Otto Von Bolschwing, a U.S. citizen of German origin who from 1947 to 1954 was engaged in intelligence activities in Vienna, Austria sponsored by this Agency. OGC has forwarded this request to the DDO. The request was in response to an earlier OGC memorandum to Justice Department, itself responding to a name trace and records search which noted that in Subject's "Application to File Petition for Naturalization," dated 4 February 1959 he neglected to mention his past membership in the Nazi Party. Justice wishes to review pertinent files to investigate possible violation of Title 18 of the U.S. Code by failing to note this on his application.

2. A cursory review of the operational files indicates that from the end of 1945-46, Subject worked for the United States Military Government in southern Bavaria. He was picked up by the Austrian Station in 1947 for whom he worked under Army cover until his immigration to the United States with Agency assistance. Whereas the Station was not aware of his Nazi Party membership at the time he was picked up, in 1949 at our request Von Bolschwing wrote his autobiography outlining the circumstances of his Nazi Party membership. A thorough analysis of the files will be required to determine if there is information in them that reveals why Subject did not report this at the time of naturalization proceedings. Information pertinent to Justice's interest will of course be provided for their review.

3. A copy of this report is being made available to the Assistant for Public Affairs in the event public attention is drawn to this case as a result of the current effort by the Justice Department and Congress to denaturalize some alleged Nazi war criminals. It should be emphasized that available information does not connect Subject with war crimes, but the possibility of adverse press treatment cannot be precluded.

FOR COORDINATION WITH DoJ/OSI

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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